

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11010 291939Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /062 W
-----092840 301310Z /46

R 291030Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11010

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, RP, VHSN CH, CB, LA
SUBJECT: ROMULO BRIEFING ON SOVIET SOUTHEAST ASIAN POLICY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO ASKED ME TO COME BY HIS OFFICE
JUNE 29 FOR BRIEFING ON LATEST INTELLIGENCE MANILA HAD RE-
CEIVED ABOUT SOVIET SOUTHEAST ASIA POLICY. HE READ FOLLOWING
FROM CABLE RECEIVED DAY PREVIOUS FROM GOP AMBASSADOR TO LAOS:

A. PEKING IS CONVINCED THAT THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN CON-
FLICT AND CHINESE-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT REFLECT THE VIETNAMESE
DRIVE FOR HEGEMONY OVER SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS IS BEING IN-
STIGATED BY THE SOVIETS.

B. THE SOVIETS IN TURN ARE AIMING TO CONTROL THE SOUTH CHINA
SEA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

C. MOSCOW IS ALREADY USING NAVAL FACILITIES AT CAM RANH BAY
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AS A YEAR ROUND PORT FOR THE VLADIVOSTOK FLEET. "IT IS BE-
LIEVED SOVIET PRESENCE IN CAM RANH BAY COULD NEUTRALIZE
THE AMERICANS IN CLARK AND SUBIC."

D. LAOS IS TODAY UNDER VIRTUAL VIETNAMESE CONTROL.

E. VIETNAMESE ADVISERS OCCUPY ALL KEY POSITIONS IN VIENTIANE

AND SOME 3-4 VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS REMAIN IN LAOS.

F. IN CAMBODIA THE VIETNAMESE INITIALLY INTRODUCED 6-7 DIVISIONS.

G. VIETNAMESE HAVE USED THEIR DOLLARS EIGHT BILLION OF ABANDONED U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO IMPOSE UPON THEIR NEIGHBORS THEIR VISION OF AN INDO-CHINESE FEDERATION INSTEAD OF DEVOTING ENERGIES TO RECONSTRUCTING THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

2. THANKED ROMULO FOR THIS INFORMATION AND ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE ME ANY IDEA OF THE AMBASSADOR'S SOURCES. ROMULO REPLIED THAT NONE HAD BEEN LISTED (SIC) BUT THAT HE KNEW THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD GOOD CONTACTS IN VIENTIANE WHERE HE HAS SERVED FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

3. COMMENT: RECOGNIZE THIS IS THIN GRUEL BUT SUBMIT AS EVIDENCE OF APPARENT GOP DESIRE TO INCREASE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE WITH US. MURPHY

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